

L'Ecole

No 41

2016 Estate Cabernet Franc – Seven Hills Vineyard Walla Walla Valley

WINEMAKER COMMENT

Seven Hills Vineyard Cabernet Franc (oldest block planted 1997) is a significant and valuable blending component of our Estate Perigee and Merlot. As vines matured, the fruit made an indelible impression on our winemaking team. This robustly balanced and integrated wine shows a rich concentration of complex flavors which led us to make this 100% varietal, limited production wine starting in 2006.

SEVEN HILLS VINEYARD

L'Ecole No 41 is a partner in the 190 acre acclaimed Seven Hills Vineyard, which is planted in wind-blown loess of geologically young and mineral rich soils. Originally planted in 1980, this Certified Sustainable and Salmon Safe vineyard was recognized as one of the Ten Great Vineyards of the World by *Wine & Spirits Magazine*.

VINTAGE

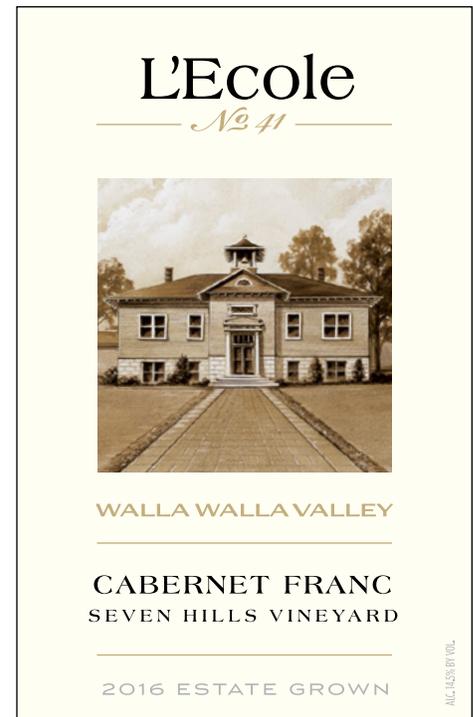
- The 2016 vintage looks like another spectacular and large harvest for Washington State; it started early with a mild winter, hot spring, and early bud break, suggesting another warm year was on the way.
- Moderate June weather was ideal for bloom and fruit set.
- July temperatures were lower than normal, allowing for healthy berry and cluster growth.
- Continued mild weather through August and September stretched the growing season allowing the fruit to ripen gradually and evenly, with lower sugars and higher acidity.
- The longer hang-time produced fantastic balance of flavor and structure in both the white and red varieties.

WINEMAKING

- Over 30 years of meticulous vineyard management and winemaking experience are fundamental to the quality of our wines and reputation for excellence. We are engaged in growing and making 100% of our wines.
- Each lot was hand harvested and crushed into a stainless steel fermenter.
- The must was inoculated with yeast and punched down by hand during fermentation to maximize fruit extraction.
- After pressing and settling, the wine was racked to 100% French oak barrels, with 30% new and was barrel-aged 20 months with five rackings.

TASTING NOTES

Our Estate Cabernet Franc, rich garnet in color, opens with intriguing aromas of dark fruit layered with violet, pink peppercorn, and clove. Beautifully balanced, it shows notes of cocoa, blueberry, plum and orange peel leading to a savory dried herb finish.



HARVEST DATA

Harvest Dates	SEPTEMBER 15, 2016
Average Brix	26.7°
Average pH	3.39
Average Acidity	6.3 G/L

WINE DATA

Composition	100% CABERNET FRANC
pH	3.65
Total Acidity	6.5 g/L
Alcohol	14.5%
Bottling Date	JULY 16, 2018
Release Date	APRIL 2019
Case Production	250